**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA**
**DEFENCE**
**LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:7486
ANSWERED ON:16.05.2002
TESTING OF SARAS AIRCRAFT
KINJARAPU YERRANNAIDU

**Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:**

(a) the time by which multi-role Saras aircraft is likely to put on test flown;

(b) the time by which the work on this project was started and the target date for taking it to skies; and

(c) the reasons for delay in this regard?

## Answer

MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES)

(a) The first test flight of multirole light transport aircraft `Saras` is scheduled for December 2002.

(b) The project of `Saras` was sanctioned on 24th September, 1999 with initial schedule of its maiden flight by March 2001.

(c) The delay is attributed to technology embargoes and technological complexities.